our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Spring 1992

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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American Humane Association
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World Society for the Protection of Animals
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COVER:

Fourfooted Fan — "A.J." (short for Andrew Jackson) dons his uniform to root for the home team.

Photo by A.J.'s owner, Patricia Webb of Watertown.

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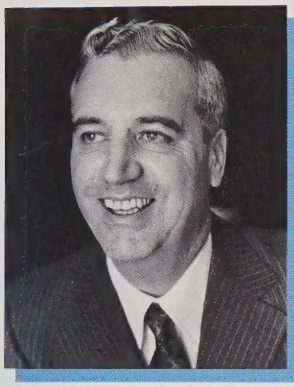


Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Act Now to Protect Endangered Species

Much of what we report in this column relates to local and state issues and happenings within our own organization, but, from time to time, there are special issues of a much broader scope that relate to important national concerns.

I should like to talk briefly about such a concern — The Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1992 — H.R. 4045.

As you may recall, the Endangered Species Act was originally passed 18 years ago when it was apparent that there was an urgent need to attempt to protect many species of plants and animals that were on the verge of becoming extinct. We now have another major hurdle to overcome if these good efforts are to continue.

The Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1992 — H.R. 4045 was introduced last November by Congressman Gerry Studds and thirty other U.S. House of Representatives members. This is a critical piece of legislation because it will do a number of essential things. If enacted, H.R. 4045 would reauthorize the Endangered Species Act through fiscal year 1997; it would substantially increase the level of funding to further implement the Act; it would improve the ability of citizens to use legal means to enforce the Act; it would improve the recovery planning process used to bring species back from the brink of extinction; and it would encourage the development of conservation plans to benefit species before they are actually listed and become threatened or endangered.

This legislation may not have every improvement that some people may have hoped for, but it is an excellent beginning and warrants active support. It is important to note that contrary to the contentions of adversaries of the Endangered Species Act, the accomplishments under the Act to date have shown a high degree of success. In support of the record of success of the Act, the Endangered Species Coalition has prepared a list of these accomplishments on a state by state basis. We have a copy of the list and I would be glad to make a copy available to people who may have a particular interest.

Support is presently needed from members of the general public in the form of letters to Congressmen urging them to co-sponsor H.R. 4045. The Massachusetts Congressional members who should be encouraged to co-sponsor H.R. 4045 are Representatives Richard Neal, Joseph Early, Joseph Moakley, Brian Donnelly, and John Olver.

It would also be very helpful if people would write to Representatives Barney Frank, Chester Atkins, Nicholas Mavroules and Edward Markey and thank them for already lending their support by co-sponsoring the bill. U.S. Representatives may be reached by addressing letters as follows:

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

I would be grateful to know of any responses you may receive.

Elk antlers are sought for their curative powers.

Wasted Wildlife

By Terrie Bierig-Neyland

For most people the word "poaching" probably conjures an image of natives sneaking through the bush in Africa preparing to attack and slaughter a stately old elephant for its ivory. In the United States it is no longer necessary to look outside of our country for proof of the decimation caused by the illegal trade in wildlife. Unfortunately, the illegal U.S. trade in North America's wildlife is so lucrative that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) estimates the yearly profits for poachers, middlemen, and sellers to be in excess of 200 million dollars. Poaching U.S. wildlife is big business and, despite the best efforts of state and federal wildlife officials, it is a growing business.

The range of animals, fish, birds, and reptiles that are poached is staggering. Bears are killed for their gall bladders and paws, both of which are believed by Asian cultures to have strong medicinal benefits. Cougars are killed for their hides or trapped alive for use in a "canned" hunt where a wealthy trophy hunter pays for the opportunity to shoot the animal as it emerges from a cage. The bald eagle and many other raptors are killed for their feathers which, due to the resurgence of interest in Native American jewelry and crafts, fetch top dollar. The paddlefish, which has survived for millions of years in U.S. waters, is being wiped out for its roe that is sold as caviar. Snakes in the U.S. are hunted mercilessly and then shipped through the mail illegally for use in the fashion or pet industry. Deer and elk are killed for their antlers because when they are "in velvet," they are filled with blood. The antlers are often sold to South Koreans who use them as a cure for certain ailments.

The lure of the big money that can be generated through illegal hunts motivates the poachers to take animals during the off season, kill protected species such as the bald eagle, and shoot numbers of animals that far exceed the legal limits. This gluttony was illustrated in a September 1991, "National Geographic" article written by Constance J. Poten that showed a man in Louisiana sitting in a canoe which was overflowing with dead ducks. The man shot twenty-nine ducks and "stopped shooting only because he ran out of bullets." In that same article, USFWS agent Joel Scrafford is quoted as saying of poachers and trophy hunters, "They're killing off the biggest, the best of the gene pool for future generations."

The ongoing battle being waged by federal and state wildlife agents against poaching covers the U.S. from Alaska to Massachusetts. To the few hundred agents who are attempting to apprehend thousands of poachers or throw a wrench into the network they use to sell their illegal take, the

task seems daunting. For every poacher caught, there are many more that are heading out on an illegal hunt.

For the "good guys" like USFWS Special Agent Moulton, who is based in Connecticut, there are some major victories that make the fight worthwhile. In 1986 Special Agent Moulton was one of several federal and state agents from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York who kicked off Operation Berkshire which was a cooperative effort against the illegal wildlife trade. Initially, the investigation only targeted the buying and selling of deer which is illegal in most states.

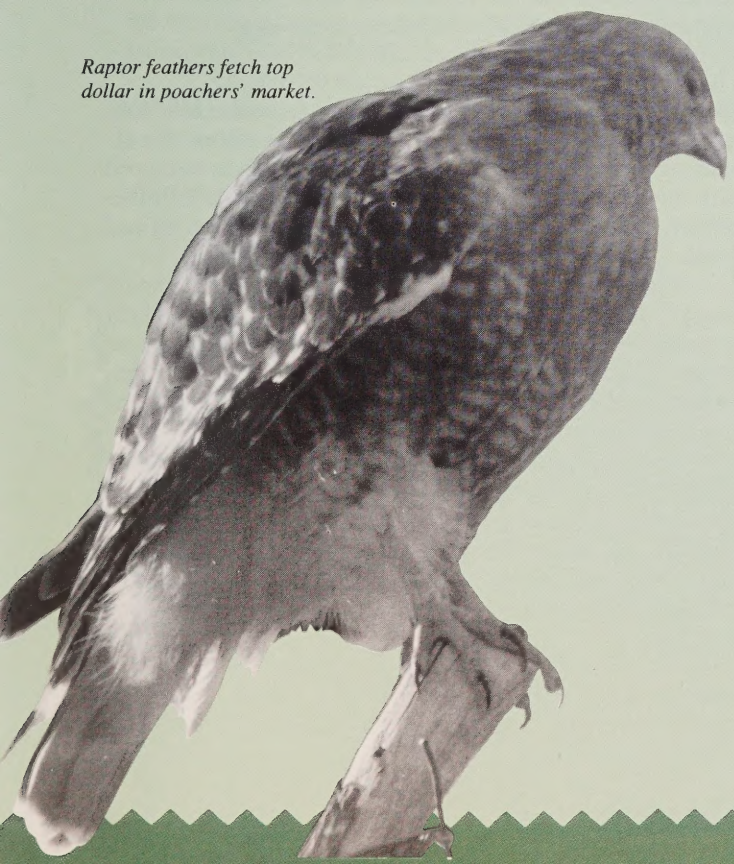
During Operation Berkshire, the agents worked undercover as the middlemen who buy and then sell wildlife body parts for profit. The scope of the investigation began to mushroom as the agents found themselves involved not only with the deer trade but also the illegal trade in bear gall bladders, bear paws, cougar hides and wild turkey. At one point in the investigation, Special Agent Moulton found himself in a parking lot in Amesbury, Massachusetts purchasing 218 bear gall bladders as Special Agent Chris Dowd filmed the transaction. The "seller" was from Florida. Operation Berkshire not only nabbed the poachers or "shooters" but also other middlemen and the people who re-sold the illegal bounty in other countries. The last of twenty-eight convictions resulting from Operation Berkshire were handed down in September of 1991.

Special Agent Moulton is proud of the job he and the other agents did during Operation Berkshire. "It feels good to have been part of such a successful investigation," explains Moulton, "the most important part of this operation was its cooperative nature; all seven state wildlife agencies and the USFWS combined efforts and made it happen." Special Agent Moulton underscored the danger involved in what is a growing illegal trade in wildlife when he related a recent incident where a Korean man in New York was murdered and robbed of the ten bear gall bladders he was carrying. The gall bladders were most likely en route to Korea for sale at a price of $1000 each.

Bear paws are hot items in the "body parts for profit" trade.

Unfortunately, not all investigations into the illegal wildlife trade result in convictions and much of that is due to the difficulty in accurately identifying and tracing evidence. Poachers often claim that the animal part they possess is not from an endangered species or that it was killed during the legal hunting season or it is not really from the carcass they were found driving away from. The National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory (NFW Forensics Laboratory) plans to change all that and weight the odds in favor of the wildlife agents in the future. The laboratory can match animal parts with the exact carcass of origin and prove that another product originated from an endangered species. The need for these services is so great that the laboratory has been overwhelmed with requests for assistance in tracing the origins of confiscated wildlife contraband from all over the world. The NFW Forensics Laboratory is the latest hope in a desperate battle against time and the ravenous demand for U.S. wildlife.

An informed public can be a powerful ally with the state and federal agencies fighting to preserve U.S. wildlife. The NFW Forensics Laboratory is federally funded and has only been operational for two years. The public can write letters to their Congressperson asking for continued support for the laboratory's work and send a copy of that letter to the President of the United States. It is possible that during a hike or camping trip you might come across a deer carcass with just the antlers missing or a bear carcass without paws, all signs of poaching. Report any such findings to local wildlife agents immediately. U.S. poachers have served a death sentence on our wildlife and we need to bond together in our own "cooperative effort" to defeat them.



Raptor feathers fetch top dollar in poachers' market.

Firemen lead horses to safety during a barn fire and rescue drill.

SOUND THE ALARM!

Recent Fires Ignite Call For Animal Safety Measures

A tragic series of fires that killed 170 animals in eastern Massachusetts within a one-week period in February has focused attention on fire safety regulations for animals in this state, and found them woefully inadequate.

The chain of sad events began on Friday night, February 14, when a blaze broke out at the Fortune kennel in the O'Donnell-Pike compound in Lynn, a complex of over 20 kennel buildings housing greyhounds that race at nearby Wonderland Park. The 40-year-old wooden structure was not equipped with sprinklers, and 87 dogs were killed in the fire, many dying within seconds after the blaze broke out.

Shortly after midnight on the morning of February 15, six League agents accompanied by Lynn's animal control officer, Kevin Farnsworth, visited the scene. "The entire interior of the kennel had burned . . . All of the dogs inside were dead, some severely burned, and others untouched by the flames," agent John J. Burns wrote in his report. "All of the cages had shredded paper as bedding, some of which had also burned," he noted. Lynn fire officials would later determine that the fire was set by an arsonist, who had used shredded paper to ignite the flames.

League agents and a representative of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) returned to the site Tuesday, February 18, to inspect the remaining kennel buildings, only one of which was equipped with smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. While the other kennels were not as crowded as the one that burned, all had wooden floors, and used shredded paper for bedding.

Hours earlier that same day, a barn fire at Plimouth Plantation killed 77 animals, most of which had been specially bred to resemble the breeds that were kept by the Pilgrims over three centuries ago. The 40- x 60-foot steel and wooden barn was completely destroyed by the fire, along with all of the pigs, cows, goats and calves inside.

Two days later, again in the early morning hours, another fire engulfed a barn on the Mason Sears estate in Dedham, killing three horses, a pony, one chicken and a three-day-old calf. League agents Christine Wojtowicz, Bob Walsh and Terry Ober arrived at the scene at 7:45 a.m. to find that all of the food needed for the care of the surviving animals was also destroyed in the fire. The League sent twenty bales of hay, shavings and rabbit food, and other emergency supplies, over from its Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham, and helped build a temporary shelter for the chickens. Agent Alan

Cunningham transported a sheep and a duck over to the League facility for temporary care and medical treatment. At the request of the owners, the League later took temporary custody of the cow "Apples," whose calf had died, keeping her on a special diet at its Dedham barn for two weeks, until her milk had dried up.

Fire officials later determined that the fires at Plimouth Plantation and at the barn in Dedham were both caused by portable heat lamps commonly used to warm newborn calves.

In the wake of these tragedies, public attention has focused on the lack of fire protection laws for animals in Massachusetts. Although the state is a leader in most animal protection issues, there are virtually no laws on the books that would have prevented these fires. The League, and the MSPCA, are both authorized by the Commonwealth to conduct inspections of state-licensed animal boarding facilities, but not private facilities. Even had these facilities been routinely inspected, however, they would not have been found guilty of violating any fire protection laws, because few regulations exist in the animal protection laws.

"We can go in and make recommendations, but we don't have the authority to enforce them," said League agent Jack Burns in a *Boston Globe* interview. The only references to fire protection in the cruelty statutes are regulations prohibiting smoking and requiring automatic sprinklers in specific situations, such as when horses are stalled on an upper floor of a building.

The Massachusetts State Racing Commission has the power to ensure that racing animals have "adequate" housing, but the provision is open to individual interpretation. Builders of newer facilities, like the Raynham Taunton Greyhound Park, have voluntarily incorporated into their construction plans such safety measures as cement-block buildings, sprinklers, and alarm systems.

"Ultimately, the most effective answer lies in changes in future construction codes for buildings which house animals," observes League President Arthur G. Slade. "Fire safety must be incorporated in these codes as a paramount concern. Meanwhile, we must deal realistically with the inherent safety hazards of existing structures like the old New England tinder barns which can be engulfed in flames in a matter of seconds."

A bill (S1048) has been filed by Sen. Richard R. Tisei (R) of Wakefield that would require any building housing five or more horses to be protected throughout with an adequate system of automatic sprinklers, or fire extinguishers, in accordance with the provisions of the state building codes. Buildings which house fewer than five horses would have to be equipped with an adequate system of either fire extinguishers, or heat or smoke detectors.

Chickens search for food in the burnt ruins of the Dedham barn.

Survivors of the Dedham fire included this sheep and cow who were temporarily sheltered at the League's Pine Ridge facility.

The League supports the intent of this legislation, but would like to see similar protections extended to facilities which house other animals, as well. Ideally, what is needed is legislation requiring that all facilities sheltering animals be equipped with fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, an audible alarm system connected to the local fire department and, where possible, sprinkler systems. It should be noted that sprinkler systems are not practical in certain structures, like unheated barns, where pipes would quickly freeze in cold New England winters.

Fire Safety Precautions

The following guidelines should be part of the safety and fire prevention program practiced by every owner of horses or other barn animals:

1. Keep fire extinguishers and other fire fighting equipment, such as buckets and hoses, available in several locations and properly marked so anyone can find them.
2. Have periodic "fire drills" with your animals.
3. Memorize location of nearest phone and number of fire department and police. Post these numbers on the nearest phone.
4. Don't use chain to tie a horse in a stall. Rope can be more quickly and easily cut in case of fire.
5. Post "no smoking" signs, and ask guests not to smoke in or near stables.
6. Invite a local fire department representative to your stable for a safety check.
7. Above all, stay calm if a fire does break out — a cool head can make the difference in successfully getting your animals out of the stable.

Dr. Edward Leonard welcomes feline patients to League rabies clinic.

Rabies Update: Cats Need Protection

In response to an outbreak of wildlife rabies among raccoons which is gradually working its way up to New England from the mid-Atlantic states, the Massachusetts state legislature is currently considering proposals that would require all pet owners in the state to have their cats, as well as their dogs, vaccinated against rabies.

An article in the December issue of *Our Fourfooted Friends* reported that, as of November, 1991, 98 cases of rabid raccoons had been identified in southwestern Connecticut, as well as five skunks and two woodchucks infected by the raccoon rabies strain. Since that time, the number of wild animals testing positive in that state has risen to well over 200, and, in early January, the disease was detected for the first time in a domestic animal, a pet cat in Monroe, CT, thought to have been bitten by a raccoon. Last spring, Connecticut passed a law requiring that cats be protected against rabies, joining New Jersey and several other states which have passed similar laws.

Two separate proposed bills have been filed in this state, and representatives of the League, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Massachusetts Veterinary Association, and state officials have met in an effort to come up with legislation that would combine the best features of both proposals.

Currently, all dogs six months of age or older are required by law to be vaccinated. When the new law is passed, this protection is likely to be required for all dogs and cats over the age of three months.

Meanwhile, the League strongly urges all cat owners to voluntarily extend this protection to their pets. Cats, by their very nature as hunters, are much more likely to come in contact with rabid wild animals and therefore are at higher risk than dogs. Cats are also the most likely link for the transmission of the disease from wildlife to humans.

Any animal that is vaccinated under the age of one year will be required to have a booster vaccination one year after the initial inoculation. After that, animals need to be revaccinated every three years.

A disease which affects the nervous system, rabies is virtually always fatal unless treated early. People can be exposed to the disease through a bite or scratch, or contact with an infected animal's saliva. Treatment after exposure for humans, which consists of a series of six inoculations, is 100% effective, if it is done in time.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has issued recommendations urging people to avoid wild, stray or unfamiliar animals, and above all avoid handling sick, injured or dead animals. Animal control officers should be called in such cases. Also, avoid attracting raccoons by keeping all garbage cans securely closed, and cleaning up garbage spills immediately.

Any persons bitten by an unfamiliar animal should wash the wound immediately with soap and water, and then call their doctor and/or the local board of health to determine whether they need to be treated for rabies.

In an effort to help people ensure that their pets are protected against rabies, the League this year has extended its program of rabies clinics to several Boston neighborhoods. In late March and early April, rabies clinics for dogs and cats were held in Dorchester and West Roxbury. The League's Sheldon Branch in Salem also sponsored a clinic for that city's pets in late March.

Other upcoming rabies and licensing clinics, sponsored by the League in conjunction with the City of Boston Animal Control Unit, include:

Saturday, May 2
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
ARL Headquarters
10 Chandler St.
Boston (corner of Arlington & Tremont Sts.)

Saturday, June 6
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Engine #41 Fire Station
460 Cambridge Street
Brighton

Rabies shots are $1 each, and free for pet owners 60 years old and over. Dog licenses are also available at the clinic at a cost of $4 for male dogs and spayed females; $15 for unspayed females. Owners must bring proof of spaying.

League agents perform frequent water rescues, with the aid of new, insulated rescue suits (see p. 14).

1991 ANNUAL REPORT

On the international level, the year 1991 brought concern in the aftermath of the Gulf War which had devastating effects on animal life and the environment. At home, a period of economic uncertainty and belt-tightening created new pressures and challenges for those who work for humane and other not-for-profit causes.

In light of these concerns, it is heartening to report that 510 new members joined the League this year, bringing total membership to 30,613. The continued support of these members and friends is a source of strength and encouragement for all of those involved in the League's mission.

(Continued on next page)

1991 ANNUAL REPORT

In an effort to best utilize all of its resources to meet the challenges of the '90's, the League this year inaugurated an innovative management process designed to serve as a catalyst for increased staff and management input and cooperation. A number of action teams have been formed on an organization-wide basis, including members of the staff, management, and board of directors, to consider and address specific areas of involvement, ranging from policy issues and direct client relations, to shelter procedures and techniques.

Despite economic restraints, the League was able to provide services to over 345,000 animals during the year, thanks to the generous support of its members. This was an increase of 24% over 1990.

This statistical growth is largely attributable to expanded activities in the animal protective services area, where a total of 309,264 animals were seen during investigations and inspections, an increase of 30% over 1990. A majority of these animals were checked by League inspectors during 455 inspection visits to places where animals are kept commercially, such as guard dog establishments, fairs, zoos, kennels, stables and research laboratories. This is more than double the number of inspection visits conducted in 1990. Over 1,100 of these cases, however, called for far more than routine inspection. During 1991, League inspectors responded to 1,191 calls for investigation into suspected cases of animal abuse or neglect, a rise of 22% in such calls for help over the previous year.

These investigations uncovered evidence of abuse ranging from animals suffering due to negligence, like the dog that died of hyperthermia when its owner left it confined in a hot car, to such tragic victims of malice as the cat that was slain in a ritualistic sacrifice. Many, like the latter case, involved crimes of a particularly violent nature, with a continuation of the trend toward escalating violence noted in last year's annual report. Efforts to enforce animal abuse laws led to 86 court appearances by League law enforcement officers this year, the highest number ever. It is gratifying to note that many of these legal proceedings were brought to a satisfactory conclusion during 1991, and their outcomes are reported in a separate article on page 13.

Photo by Michael Fein courtesy Boston Herald

Cocoa" bids farewell to manager Paula Ouimette before leaving the Salem shelter for a new home. Neglected and severely malnourished, Cocoa was cared for at the shelter for three months until weight and health were back to normal.

Many of the formerly abused or neglected animals — the lucky ones — were among the 5,710 pets placed in new homes during the year, including 1,800 dogs, 3,668 cats, and 242 miscellaneous animals. Of these, 160 dogs and cats were adopted at no cost by persons over 65, under the Purina Pets for People program.

The League continued its efforts to locate and return lost pets, resulting in 1,086 happy reunions during the year. Tracing lost owners can involve extensive detective work, as was the case when agents from the Safford shelter in Dedham found a purebred border collie who had given birth to a litter of puppies under a porch in Westwood this past December. Through a numbered tag, they traced the dog to a breeder in Hopbottom, PA, whose records showed that the dog had been sold to a resident of Dover, MA. The League returned the collie to her grateful owner, a sheep farmer who had last seen the dog in August, and found homes for all of her mixed-breed puppies. Another unusual case in Dedham involved a 225 lb. sheep found wandering the streets in Saugus shortly before Christmas. Christened "Mistletoe" by staff members, the sheep drew widespread media attention before being reunited with its owner, a farmer from Middleton, who reported that vandals had turned the sheep loose earlier in the month.

Veterinarians in the League's outpatient clinic for small animals reported a total of 9,080 patient visits during the year. The clinic also provided veterinary care for all of the animals brought to the shelter and offered for adoption. Many of these animals are brought to the League by ambulance drivers and shelter agents who responded to 12,676 calls for assistance during the year. Some of these animals have been seriously injured in accidents, and require extensive treatment and rehabilitation. Others have managed to get themselves into precarious situations, and are rescued and returned to their owners.

Youngsters learn to care for farm animals at the Animal Friends Summer School.

Boston shelter manager Katherine Dwyer frees a Canada goose entangled in a wire basket at a Weston pond.

Emergency rescues performed during 1991 included retrieving numerous cats — and one adventurous dog — who had climbed up trees; extricating a variety of small animals, such as raccoons who were stuck in chimneys, and skunks in storm drains and sewers; and capturing, treating and releasing an increasing number of injured birds and waterfowl, including Canada geese and ducks, as well as a snapping turtle.

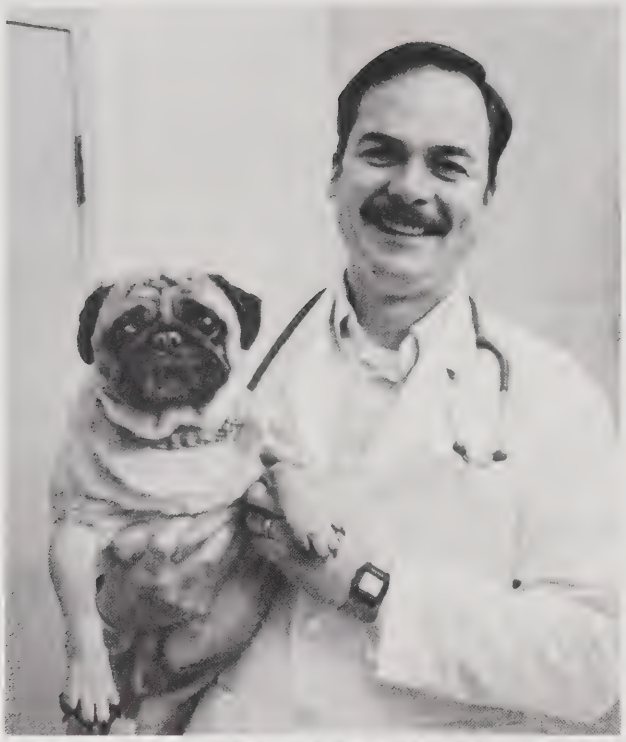
Legislation introduced by the League during 1991 centered on proposals aimed at tightening existing animal cruelty laws, and increasing the penalties for certain crimes, including maiming or cruelly treating one's own animal (currently considered a lesser crime than harming someone else's animal), and harboring someone else's dog and removing its collar, if it is licensed and collared. These proposals are still awaiting action by the state legislature.

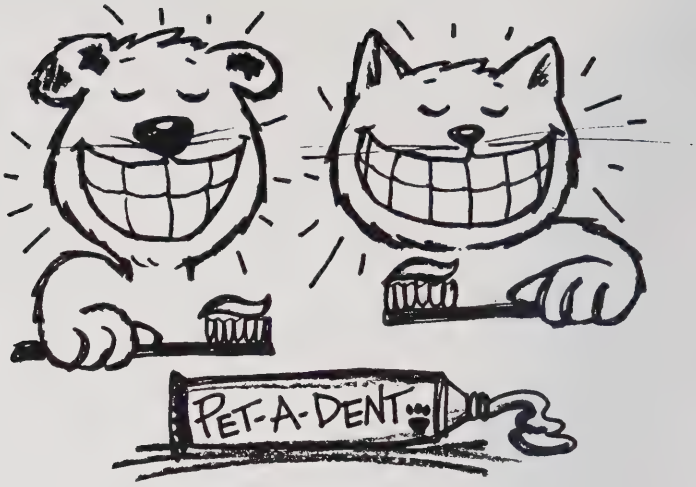
Educational and outreach activities during the year included a Pet Appreciation Day held on Boston Common in May, featuring a pet show for children and educational exhibits, and a series of open houses at League headquarters and branches to encourage community involvement in League programs.

For the second consecutive year, the Animal Friends Summer School on Cape Cod offered youngsters a choice between a three-week or four-week session of educational programs and animal-related activities aimed at fostering an appreciation of animals and the environment. Other humane education activities included classroom pet care demonstrations, shelter tours and presentations for school groups, the publication of pet care pamphlets, and the League's quarterly publication, *Our Four-footed Friends*.

This lost sheep found her way home, with the help of agents Michelle Testa and Alan Cunningham

Responsibility is one of the lessons learned at the League's annual pet shows.





A Veterinary Update:

Brushing Up on Dental Health

By Edward A Leonard, D.V.M.

Have you brushed your pet's teeth lately? People are accustomed to devoting time and money to their own dental health, but when it comes to their pets, many owners dismiss tooth decay and loss as a natural part of aging, and accept offensive dog and cat breath as an unpleasant, but inevitable, fact of animal life.

With good preventive care, however, many of these problems need never occur, and those that do, such as dental caries or cavities, or periodontal disease, can be corrected today with modern veterinary dental techniques.

Pets are not able to complain when they have a toothache, so it is up to you to be alert to the warning signs of dental woes. Signs can be obvious, such as bad breath and red and swollen gums, or more subtle, such as a reluctance to eat hard food, or drink cold water.

The best treatment for these problems is prevention, through a program of regular dental check-ups, cleaning and scaling, as well as a regular dental health routine at home. Plaque and tartar build-up — which lead to gingivitis and ultimately periodontitis — can be prevented or delayed by making sure your pet has hard biscuits, or dry food for cats, and raw-hide chews.

Regular teeth brushing — at least once every three days — is also a vital part of your pet's dental health program. Animal toothbrushes and flavored toothpastes are available at veterinary clinics and pet stores, but the best way to get your pet accustomed to the idea of teeth cleaning is to start off with a gauze square or wash cloth wrapped around your finger. Using a mixture of baking soda and lukewarm water, rub each tooth gently, working from the gum line to the edge of the tooth. It's easiest to begin this procedure with young puppies or kittens, but even older animals will soon adjust to the new routine. While you clean, check the inside of your pet's mouth for any swelling, sores, or broken teeth.

A dental check-up and professional teeth cleaning should be done annually. Your pet will have to be anesthetized for scaling and periodontal examinations, and during corrective treatment, but the anesthetic agents available today are highly safe and effective. Corrective procedures which can be performed today on animals range from routine fillings and extractions, to gum surgery, root canals, and even crown replacements.

Because undetected dental disease can lead to eating difficulties, behavioral changes, and debilitating systemic infections, a good dental health regime can literally add years to your pet's life, and certainly make that life more comfortable. Remember this the next time you're scheduling your own yearly dental exam, and make a veterinary appointment for your pet at the same time.

Fighting Cruelty with Conviction

Crimes against animals have increased in severity in recent years, but so also have the sentences and penalties imposed on the perpetrators, a development that hopefully may serve as a deterrent to future animal abuse.

Responding to reports of cruelty or abuse is truly a team effort at the League, involving rescue agents, law enforcement officers, veterinary staff and shelter care-givers. During a cruelty investigation, and the frequently lengthy court proceedings which follow, the League not only provides shelter, veterinary care and rehabilitation for the animals involved, but also in many cases provides extensive support to animal control officers and police in communities throughout the state, working closely with them to ensure the successful enforcement of animal abuse laws.

Among the cruelty cases brought to a satisfactory conclusion during the past year are several that illustrate this team approach at its most effective level:

• After a ten-month legal effort, the man who stuffed a battered mixed-collie named "Jennie" into a trash can, and was about to toss her over a 30-foot embankment when he was apprehended, received a 6-month suspended sentence last Spring, with a $300 fine. Throughout this period, League staff members worked daily with the severely traumatized dog to restore her physical and emotional health.

• A three-month sentence was served in 1991 by the former owner of a black labrador retriever named "Sabby," who had repeatedly beaten and kicked the dog, and thrown her down a flight of stairs. Nursed back to health, Sabby was adopted by Lori Crockwell, veterinary clinic manager at the League.

• In January 1990, the Framingham animal control officer asked the League to file cruelty charges against a Marlboro resident who had killed his puppy with a shotgun on New Year's eve, because the dog had chewed up some Christmas presents. After almost two years of court proceedings, this case was finally concluded in October, 1991, when the defendant changed his plea to guilty and was sentenced to one year probation and a $1,000 fine.

• Abandonment can cause as much suffering as abuse. In February, 1991, a woman from South Harwich went to Florida, abandoning 11 cats in her Cape Cod home, without food or water. Another woman, from Revere, left a dog locked up in a closet for four days, also without adequate food or water. The Cape Cod case was concluded in October, 1991 with the defendant receiving two years' probation and ordered to pay $600 restitution to the League, which had cared for the surviving cats. The Revere woman, whose dog had to be euthanized due to cancerous tumors, was convicted, fined $675, and barred from having another animal for at least one year. Since then, the fine for such an offense has been increased to $1,000.

• A Boston man whose greyhound "Rocky" died of heat stroke after being locked in a hot car in mid-July, was prosecuted and found guilty of cruelty in December, 1990, but he appealed his sentence. The conviction was upheld in February, 1991, and the defendant received a three-day jail sentence, which was suspended, and one-year probation.

• League operations director Thomas White's expertise in occult crimes involving animals helped the League and the Lynn police and animal control officer successfully prosecute a man who killed a cat in a ritual sacrifice. A native of the Dominican Republic who had been involved in occult practices in the Caribbean, the man had hung a tiger kitten with a telephone cord, killing the animal in a ritual sacrifice because he was angry with the kitten's owner. He was convicted in Spring, 1991, and sentenced to one year in jail.

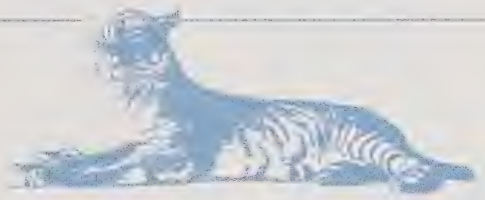
League Agents Close Wild Animal Exhibit

Prompt action by League law enforcement agents helped shut down an illegal wildlife exhibition which involved both abuse of the animals, and also exposure of the public to a risk of serious injury.

The subject of this investigation was Mr. Bhagavan Antle (also known as Kevin Antle) of the Knoxville, Tennessee area, who had brought two tigers and a lion into Massachusetts in early September, 1991 to exhibit them at King Richard's Faire in Carver, a seasonal medieval theme festival. (It should be noted that Mr. Antle's exhibition was apparently operated independently from King Richard's Faire.)

The operation involved exhibiting the large cats (and some exotic birds), and also allowing members of the public to have their photographs taken with one of the large cats for a fee.

After receiving complaints from people who observed handlers punching and slapping the large cats to force them to pose obediently for photographs, agents Jack Burns and Mark Williamson visited the fair on September 28 and witnessed rough treatment by the handlers. The next week law enforcement coordinator Alan Borgal observed, and video-taped, one of the cat



handlers "snap punching" a cat.

Further investigation disclosed that Mr. Antle's permit to bring the animals into this state had expired on September 17, and, even had it still been valid, he had violated a restriction expressly written into his import permit by putting the public in contact with the cats.

On Friday, October 11, League agents, accompanied by a Massachusetts state trooper and representatives of the Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Division, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, returned to Carver and told Mr. Antle to remove the animals from Massachusetts by the end of the weekend. By Sunday, he and his menagerie had departed, but further investigation disclosed that the threat to public safety posed by his operation was more than a remote possibility. On Wednesday, October 9, he had taken one of his tigers to Manchester, N.H. to pose in some advertising photos. During the photo session, the tiger suddenly attacked a 23-year-old model who was seated next to it, and injured the young woman about the head and shoulders.

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

NEW ZEALAND CATS FIND HOME IN CALIFORNIA

Aukland zoo veterinarian Wayne Boardman and Neil Wells, regional director of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) examine one of three tigers and ten lions about to be flown to their new home at Wildlife Waystation, a sanctuary for wild and exotic animals in California.

After an eight-month search, WSPA found a permanent home this winter for the animals, which were left homeless when New Zealand's Leisureland tourist park went bankrupt and closed last April. A world surplus of big cats made the relocation effort quite difficult. "This incident illustrates the tragedy that can befall captive wildlife when their captors can no longer provide for their well-being," said Wells, who is WSPA's regional director in Aukland. "Fortunately, this story has a happy ending thanks to Martine Colette and the caring people at Wildlife Waystation. The New Zealand cats — though they could not be returned to the wild — will now live out their natural lives in a humane and spacious habitat."

CON ARTISTS CASH IN ON LOST PET SCAM

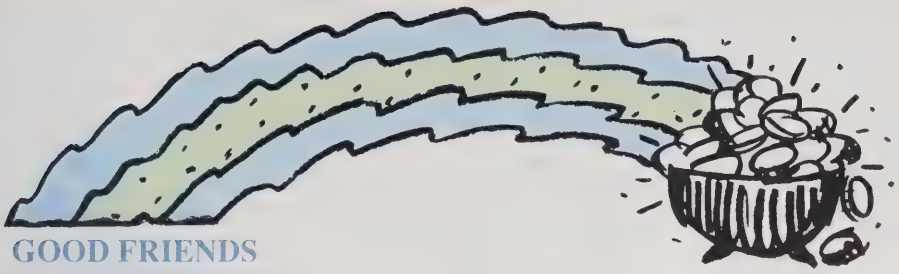
The Animal Rescue League and the Boston Police recently issued a warning to owners of missing pets to beware of people demanding cash rewards for the animals' return. A young woman whose ad in the *Boston Herald* for her lost collie elicited repeated phone calls from a man demanding amounts of money ranging from $50 to $400, cooperated in a police sting operation that led to the arrest and conviction of the caller on larceny charges. This particular con artist was sentenced to a year's probation, but about 15 similar incidents have been reported in the past three years.

WSPA APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL

Andrew Dickson, a management consultant with worldwide experience in the international business environment, has been appointed Director General of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). A graduate of Edinburgh University, WSPA's new head has worked with government and statutory bodies in the U.S., Japan and the European Commission, and has been an active supporter of a number of wildlife and environmental groups. The League is a member organization of WSPA.

CAT CALLS FOR FLORIDA POLICE

Police in Boynton Beach, Fla. were mystified by repeated calls to 911 coming from a local woman's apartment, with no speaker at the other end of the line. When they traced the address of the caller, they found that the woman's cat had pushed 911, and then kept pressing the automatic redial button. "She was probably trying to call my mother in New Jersey," said the touch-tone tabby's owner.



GOOD FRIENDS TO THE RESCUE

The League's animal rescue teams are now well equipped to respond to a variety of emergencies thanks to the generosity of good friends who responded to an appeal for rescue equipment in the last issue of *Our Four-footed Friends*. Both Henry Wiggin of Brookline, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Levenson of Swampscott sent generous gifts to the League for the purchase of slings and pulleys to be used for rescuing injured horses and other large animals.

With their combined contributions, the League was able to purchase not only the slings and pulleys, but also a heavy-duty winch for lifting large animals, and four insulated work suits for use in cold water rescues (see photo on page 9). The League extends its heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Wiggin and to Mr. and Mrs. Levenson, and also to Christopher Halligan, Jr. of Westerbeke Fishing Gear Co., Inc., whose firm donated an inflatable rescue raft for use with the cold water suits.

CALLING ALL KIDS: ANIMAL FRIENDS SUMMER SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Youngsters who will be vacationing on Cape Cod this summer, or are year-round residents, may register now to attend one or both of two full sessions of day programs at the Animal Friends Summer School in Cataumet. Sponsored by the League to encourage appreciation of the animal world and nature, the classes and activities include farm animal and domestic pet care, arts and crafts, nature studies, marine life, and a variety of other animal-related activities.

For more information or to register, contact: Animal Friends Summer School, Animal Rescue League of Boston, P. O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117, (617) 426-9170.

SESSION I:
June 29 to July 17, 1992
(Three-week session)
Registration Fee: $165*
($150 for each additional child in the same family)

SESSION II:
July 20 to August 14, 1992
(Four-week session)
Registration Fee: $220*
($200 for each additional child)

ANNUAL PET SHOW
Saturday, July 25, 1992, 10 a.m.
(Rain date: July 26)
Nye Baseball Field in
North Falmouth

* Children wishing to attend both sessions may do so for a total registration fee of $350.

LEAGUE MARKS BKA WEEK

The annual observance of Be Kind to Animals Week will kick off this year on BKA Sunday, May 3, and run through Saturday, May 9. The League will mark the event with shelter tours and educational programs.

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Robert Walsh, manager of the League's Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham, accepts a $100 donation to the League from Edmund Tucker, general manager of the Hilton Hotel in Dedham, after the shelter's entry in the hotel's holiday tree-decorating contest for non-profit organizations took second prize. Shelter staff decorated their tree with ornaments made of photographs of former shelter pets and their new owners (see inset photo). The holiday event was planned by Joyce Carberry-Scott, director of advertising for the Dedham Hilton.

RARE OWL JOURNEYS SOUTH FOR THE WINTER

Several appearances of the rare, 10-inch tall boreal owl, native to the coniferous forests of northern Canada, were reported in the Boston area this winter. The owls were spotted in Dedham, Plymouth, South Boston and Quincy. This was the first time since 1922 that so many of these owls have been seen this far south. Massachusetts Audubon Society ornithologist Wayne Petersen theorized that an unexplained population collapse among the rodents in their native habitat may have driven the birds south in search of a new food supply.

RODENT AND BIRD RIGHTS UPHELD BY COURT

The U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. recently ruled that the Agriculture Department violated the law when it excluded rats, mice and birds from the requirement that research animals be treated humanely. Judge Charles Richey ordered the department to revise its policy to ensure that these animals are covered under the Animal Welfare Act provisions.

Laws That Protect Pets

Did you ever hear someone say, "Obey the law!" or "That's against the law" and wonder what they really mean? A law is a rule made by a county, a state, a city, or a town for all people who live there. Laws protect people, pets, and things or places that people own called property.

Laws were not always needed. Long ago people lived far apart with plenty of space to "do their own thing." When more people were born, more and more space was needed so they moved closer together. Today, many people live crowded together in cities and towns where laws are needed to make sure people do not hurt the rights of others. The number of dogs and cats has grown, too. Since many pet owners do not look after their pets, laws are needed to protect both animals and the people or property nearby.

Love 'em and Leash 'em

The best kind of protection a pet has is the leash. When used by the owner whenever a pet is taken outdoors, the leash protects the pet from being hit by a car, getting in a bad fight with another pet, getting lost or stolen, or being hurt by an angry neighbor.

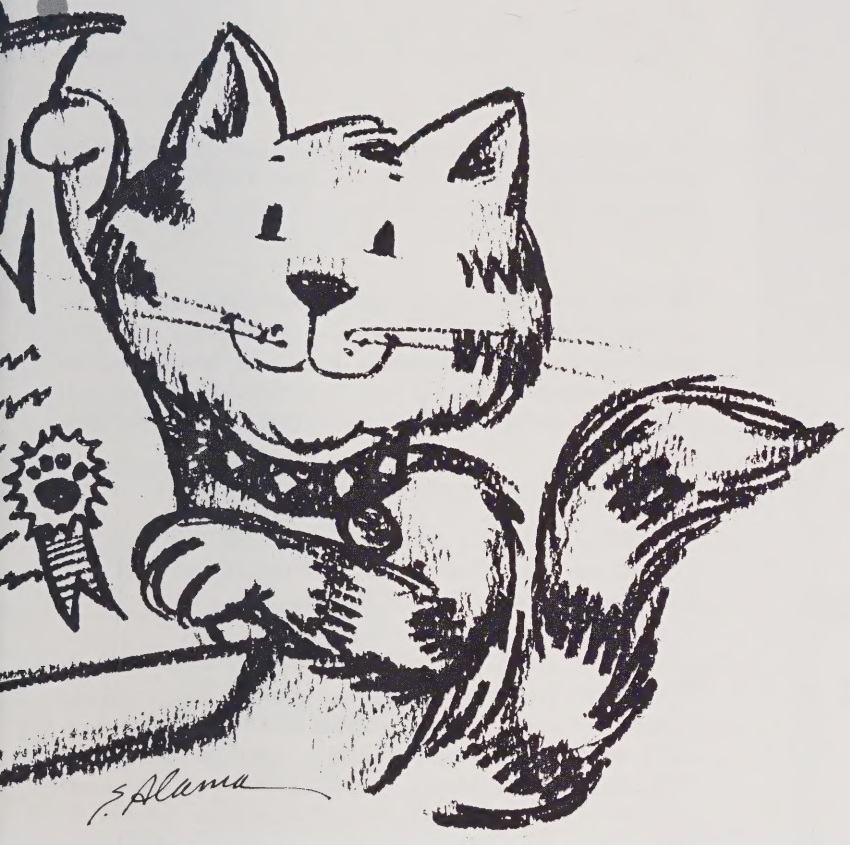
Many cities and towns have a leash law which is a rule that all dogs must be on a leash whenever they leave their owners' yard or property. The leash law not only protects the pet, but it also protects people and property.

While the leash law applies only to dogs, it is a good idea to use a leash or harness for cats when they go outside. A pet that is running loose can bite someone, get hurt by another animal in a fight, or it can become a parent to an unwanted litter of puppies or kittens. When off its leash, or not confined to a fenced-in yard, your pet can dig up a neighbor's garden, use the yard as a bathroom, or tip over the garbage and make an awful mess. Dog owners are **responsible** and must pay for any harm done to a person or property by their dogs.

A License is for Keeps

Smart people keep their pets licensed so if their pet is lost it can be returned to them. By law, in Massachusetts, all dog owners must have their dog licensed by their city or town as soon as it is three months old. The license tag must be attached firmly to a collar which is worn at all times. Every year a new license tag must be bought at the city or town hall. This is called a license renewal. It costs more to buy a license for a girl dog who has never been **spayed** than for one who has. This helps more people decide to spay their girl dogs so they will not have unwanted puppies. In many cities and towns, before an owner gets a license, he or she must show that a **veterinarian** has given their dog an anti-rabies shot. **Rabies** is a deadly sickness that dogs, cats and people can get when they are bitten by an animal who has rabies.

FRIENDS



Although a license is not required for cats, you should make sure it wears an identification tag on its collar. That way, if your cat accidentally becomes lost, whoever finds it will know how to return it. It is also a good idea to have your cat receive an anti-rabies shot. This will protect your pet from getting the disease rabies, and from possibly passing it on to you. Rabies is becoming a big problem in wild animals so it is best to play it safe and have your veterinarian give your pet this shot.

The Anti-Cruelty Law...

The **anti-cruelty law** protects pets from being mistreated. This law requires pet owners to provide their pets with the proper kind of food, water, veterinary care, clean living area, and shelter from the weather. Under this law, an owner must give all of his or her pets these things. An owner must never leave or **abandon** his or her pet with no one to care for it. It is also against the law to beat, hurt, or kill an animal. These laws protect pets from people who are thoughtless or mean to them.

In most cities and towns there are animal control officers who make sure people **obey** these important laws. It is too bad but most towns do not have enough animal control officers and have too many **stray** or free-roaming pets. Sometimes people do not think these laws are important. People do many things that are against the law because they forget, or just don't want to obey. Thousands of pets suffer each year because their owners do not care. But the laws protect people and, best of all, pets. **Don't you think it's time people obeyed the law!?**

If you see an animal you feel is being mistreated tell an adult and have them call the Animal Rescue League of Boston. We have Special Police Officers whose job it is to enforce the anti-cruelty laws.

VOCABULARY WORDS

Stray — wanderer; lost animal.
Responsible — expected to be accountable for.
Spayed — an operation that prevents female animals from having babies.
Rabies — a disease that causes damage to the nervous systems of warm-blooded animals.
Abandon — to qive up entirely.
Obey — to do what one is told.

PETS IN THE PICTURE

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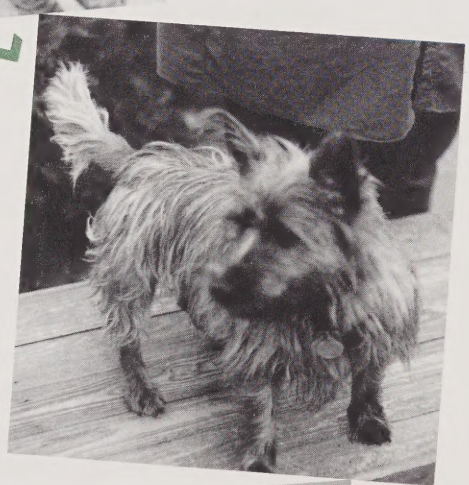

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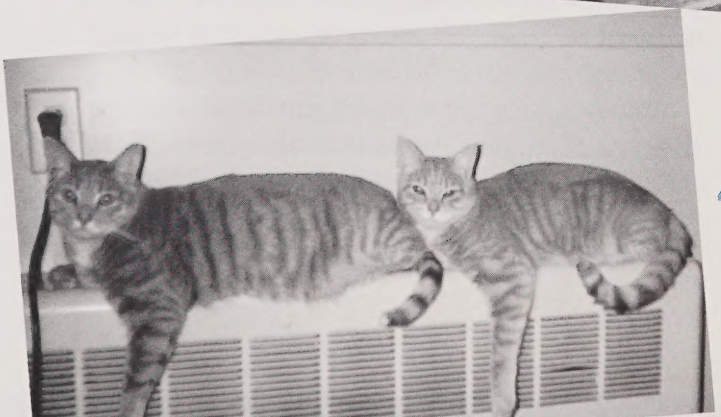

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1 "Television is 'Picasso's' favorite pastime — he especially enjoys 'Sesame Street,' " according to his owners, the Carifio family of Revere who adopted their pet last summer. "He is awesome! We have so much fun with him, and he's like a big brother to our 6-month-old son," they write.

2 Dorothy Parson of Hyde Park shares this photo of "Tony." "He's a beautiful cat, and I love him," she writes.

3 "Thank you for our beautiful boy, 'Toto.' We've had him for almost a year, and he now is truly one of the family," write Gladys and Bill Maynard of Provincetown.

4 "Homer" and "Reggie" Abbott like to relax on the radiator after their evening meal, according to Mildred C. Cotton of Braintree, whose granddaughters, Kristin and Melissa, are the proud owners of the loving pair. "God bless you in your continued good, caring work for our faithful animal friends," Mrs. Cotton writes.

5 "Perry" places a protective paw around his slightly younger pal " 'der." Both kittens were recently adopted from the League by Jacyn Stultz of Boston.

6 "Thank you for giving our house such a wonderful and loving pet," writes Richard Thomas of Dorchester who recently adopted six-month-old "Rufus," who "gets along great with other pets and people. Your staff was very helpful and went out of their way to help me adopt my beautiful pet," he adds.

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U.S. Postal Service

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1A. Title of Publication	1B. PUBLICATION NO.	2. Date of Filing
Our Fourfooted Friends	0 0 3 0 6 8 5 1	Oct. 1, 1991
3. Frequency of Issue	3A. No. of Issues Published Annually	3B. Annual Subscription Price
Quarterly	Four	$4.00

4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication *(Street, City, County, State and ZIP+4 Code) (Not printers)*

10 Chandler Street, Boston, Suffolk, MA 02116

5. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters of General Business Offices of the Publisher *(Not printer)*

10 Chandler Street, Boston, Suffolk, MA 02116

6. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor *(This item MUST NOT be blank)*

Publisher *(Name and Complete Mailing Address)*

Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler St., Boston, MA 02116

Editor *(Name and Complete Mailing Address)*

Arthur G. Slade, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116

Managing Editor *(Name and Complete Mailing Address)*

None

7. Owner *(If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Item must be completed.)*

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Animal Rescue League of Boston	10 Chandler St., Boston, MA 02116

8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities *(If there are none, so state)*

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
None	

9. For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized To Mail at Special Rates *(DMM Section 423.12 only)*
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes *(Check one)*

(1) [X] Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
(2) [ ] Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months
(If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)

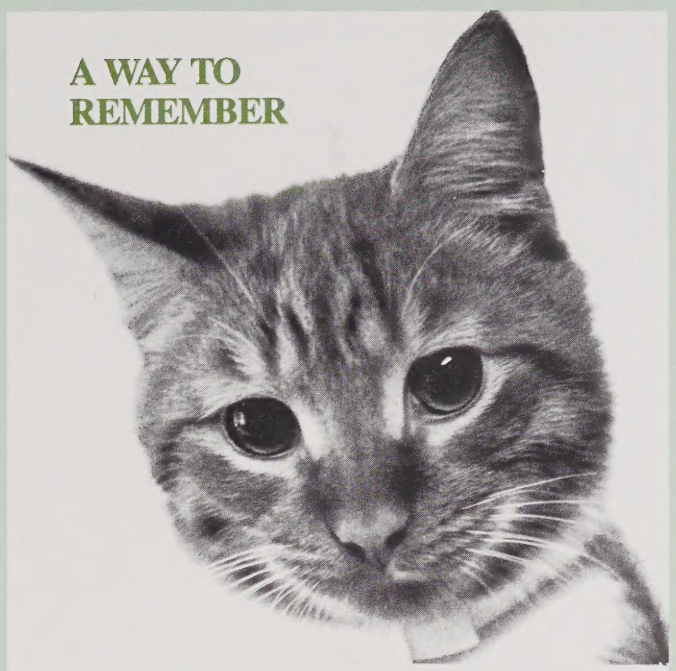
10. Extent and Nature of Circulation *(See instructions on reverse side)*	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies *(Net Press Run)*	21,947	18,500
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	None	None
2. Mail Subscription *(Paid and/or requested)*	20,654	17,715
C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation *(Sum or 10B1 and 10B2)*	20,654	17,715
D. Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies	650	575
E. Total Distribution *(Sum of C and D)*	21,304	18,290
F. Copies Not Distributed 1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	643	210
2. Return from News Agents	None	None
G. TOTAL *(Sum of E, F1 and 2—should equal net press run shown in A)*	21,947	18,500

11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete

Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

, Editor

PS Form 3526, Feb. 1989 *(See instructions on reverse)*



A WAY TO REMEMBER

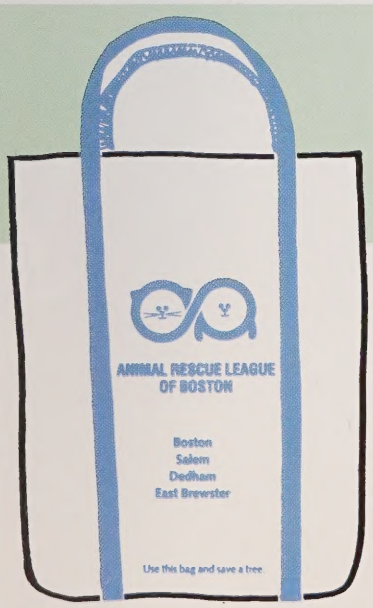
The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is **"Animal Rescue League of Boston,"** that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.

Animal Rescue League of Boston
10 Chandler Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116



SAVE A TREE

NEW ARL TOTE BAG

Be a conscientious consumer and carry your purchases in this rugged white cotton duck tote bag, roomy (17″ × 11½″) with royal blue handles and League logo. Priced at $12, plus $3 for shipping and handling. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

ORDER FORM:

Please send me _____ shopping totes at $12 each, plus $3 shipping and handling.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $ _____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Mail to:
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265
Boston, MA 02117

Spring comes to Pine Ridge Cemetery for Animals in Dedham, established by the League in 1907.

The President and Board of Directors
Cordially invite you to attend our

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 1992 at 2:30 p.m.
League Headquarters
Corner of Arlington & Tremont Streets
Boston, Massachusetts

Program:

Annual Meeting ★ Election of Directors
Special Guest Speaker

Animal Rescue League of Boston

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117